

May 23, 2021

U.S. Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, N.W. Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20001

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Dear Commissioners:

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION

This letter is about the efforts of powerful people to degrade the United State Postal Service through imposing reduced post office hours, higher postage rates and replace plane transport with trucking transport. Less service for more money is not a winning strategy and does not make America great.

There is plenty of blame to go around regarding this mess. Parents, teachers, elected officials and other local and national opinion leaders have failed to impart true love of country and what it stands for. We settle for shouted empty slogans masquerading as patriotism instead of concerted efforts to live up to our ideals of promoting the general welfare and domestic tranquility, establishing justice and freedom for all. The post office, a trusted entity, fulfills a basic need of the American people.

Those of us who grew up in rural areas in the 1930s know first-hand the importance of reliable and timely deliveries. Boxes of 100 live baby chicks as well as much-anticipated packages from the Montgomery Ward and Sears, Roebuck catalogues were anxiously awaited. The mail man was a critical part of our lives. Of course, we don't need to have chicks delivered now but as an octogenarian who still lives on the farm, we still count on the regular mail carrier for personal correspondence, packages, bills, and various important notices. The Internet is useful but does not carry the same value to so many of us.

My longtime current mail carrier takes pride in her work of accurate and timely deliveries whatever the weather or other conditions. She is alert to the needs of her customers and takes pride in her demanding and important work. My small, local brick and mortar post office is also indispensable for mailing parcels, processing certified mail, renewing passports and numerous other vital services.

Just as ordinary citizens need to step up and carry out their responsibilities of citizenship, all of our government agencies and independent Commissions, like yours, need to do the same to prevent the demise of the Great Experiment in self-governing by not undermining long-standing public services.

Commissioners, please don't let history show that you were instrumental in taking the United States down by hastening the demise of important institutions. Please stand up and strengthen the United States Postal Service, not only by keeping it in line with the changing technology but also honoring and improving its mission to truly serve the people.

Let Benjamin Franklin, our first Postmaster General, be your role model for public service. Franklin saw the need for this communication system and rightly viewed it as a unifying part of commerce and convenience to the citizens. This helped to make the United States a great nation. I implore you to place that same commitment at the center of your efforts regarding the U.S. Postal Service.

Thank you for your consideration.

Elaine B. Tutman

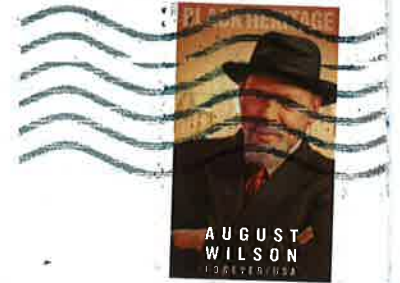
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